

gives the measurements of, an individual of *C. fulvus*, obtained in Leadenhall Market by Mr. Edward Bidwell, believed to have come from Norfolk. For comparison I will give the principal measurements of my bird.

Wing from carpal joint 7 inches, tarsus 1·62, beak along the ridge ·9, middle toe and claw 1·12, tail 2·75.

Both *C. virginicus* and *C. fulvus* have occurred in Heligoland (Ibis, 1875, p. 184, 1877, p. 165).

XXIII.—*Description of a recently discovered Species of Paradisea.* By OSBERT SALVIN and F. DUCANE GODMAN, F.F.R.S.

(Plate VIII.)

IN the last number of 'The Ibis' (p. 131) we published a brief diagnosis of a Bird of Paradise recently obtained in one of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands by Mr. Andrew Goldie. We now propose to give a fuller account of the bird, which, with the accompanying figure, drawn by Mr. Keulemans, will, we trust, do some justice to this beautiful and novel species.

Mr. Goldie, who visited the D'Entrecasteaux Islands in 1882, writes concerning this Bird of Paradise as follows:—

"The Birds of Paradise were shot on Fergusson Island, one of the D'Entrecasteaux group, in the mountains, at a considerable elevation above the sea, the first specimen obtained having been secured at the lowest point. The plumed males and the younger individuals were generally seen three or four together. Once heard, their call was unmistakable, being very like that of *Paradisea raggiana*; but the plumed and wired birds, after giving that call a few times, added to it a peculiar shrill whistle. Their motions whilst calling were identical with those of *P. raggiana*; but, so far as we were able to observe, they had no particular tree for dancing in. The females were found alone.

"We neither saw nor heard *P. raggiana* on these islands; and the new bird is not found on the mainland. On showing

it to the natives of Chad's Bay and China Straits along with a specimen of *Paradisea raggiana*, they, in both cases, made us to understand that the latter is found in their country, whilst the former is not; but two or three of them in China Straits who had traded to the D'Entrecasteaux Islands made signs that the new bird was to be found there."

The D'Entrecasteaux Islands were so called after the unfortunate admiral Jos. Ant. Bruni d'Entrecasteaux, the commander of the expedition sent by the French Government in the year 1791 in search of La Pérouse. This expedition consisted of two frigates, the 'Recherche' and the 'Espérance'; and during the voyage, which lasted till the autumn of 1793, the whole of the north coast of New Guinea was traversed; and it was in these seas that Admiral d'Entrecasteaux died. The second in command, M. Huon de Kermadec, predeceased him a few months. The names of both these explorers are associated with many of the geographical features of this part of the world.

Chad's Bay, alluded to in Mr. Goldie's remarks given above, is situated a little to the westward of East Cape, the eastern extremity of New Guinea, and on the north side of that promontory.

China Strait, so named by Capt. Moresby, who discovered it, is a channel between the south-easternmost point of New Guinea and a group of islands which lie beyond.

The most recent information we have of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands is that furnished by Captain Moresby, who visited them in 1873-74 in H.M.S. 'Basilisk,' and made surveys of them and of the adjoining parts of New Guinea and the islands to the eastward. A paper on this voyage is contained in the 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society' for 1875 (p. 153), accompanied by a map; and a further account of it is given in the book of his travels published by Captain Moresby in the same year*.

* Discoveries and Surveys in New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteaux Islands: a Cruise in Polynesia and Visits to the Pearl-shelling Stations in Torres Straits of H.M.S. 'Basilisk.' By Captain John Moresby, R.N. With Maps and Illustrations. 8vo. London: John Murray. 1876.

Fergusson Island was so named by Capt. Moresby, who calculated that the mountain called Kilkerran (the highest near the northern coast) reaches an altitude of 6000 feet above the sea. Two other large islands, Goodenough Island and Normandy Island, lie close to Fergusson Island, and form the chief islands of the group.

Paradisea decora, as we have proposed to call this Bird of Paradise, combines the characters of some of the previously known species. The side-plumes are like those of *P. sanguinea*, each feather having its barbs towards the end wide apart and destitute of barbules. These feathers are similarly formed in *P. sanguinea*; but in the present bird the barbs are even wider apart. The "wires" of the tail are like those of *P. apoda*, *P. minor*, and *P. raggiana*, the feathers having a simple stem on which the atrophied barbs become more and more evanescent till they disappear at the middle of the feather to reappear again at its extremity. In *P. sanguinea* the stem is broad and flattened.

The side-plumes of *P. decora* are very peculiar, inasmuch as a number of the anterior plumes are quite short, with the barbs of each feather much lengthened towards the end; the distal ends of these feathers are deep rich vinous red, and appear as if the pigment which colours the elongated plumes were concentrated in these shorter ones.

The breast of *P. decora* is of a soft vinaceous lilac, and in this respect differs from that of all its congeners. The throat is velvet-green, showing two shades, owing to the feathers nearer the chin reflecting the light at a different angle. This darker-looking patch is larger in *P. decora* than in the other species. The back, except the narrow green forehead, is straw-coloured, like that of *P. minor*.

Mr. Goldie's series contains males in all stages of development. The youngest are like the females, but with throat green; the breast is of a ruddy tint, vermiculated with dusky marks on each feather. In the first plumage the two central rectrices are narrow and elongated, but with barbs &c. as in the perfect feather; they project beyond the rest of the tail-feathers, the length of the projection varying. In some

males (perhaps young birds, perhaps birds out of nuptial plumage) these feathers are much more elongated and the length of the barbs of the middle of each feather is much reduced; but these lengthen again so as to form a small spatule.

The moult to the nuptial plumage proceeds in various ways: sometimes the lilac feathers of the breast are the first to appear; in others the wiry rectrices are the first to take the place of their predecessors. In some cases these latter are fully grown before the ornamental side-plumes make their appearance. In others, again, they grow contemporaneously with these plumes.

The following is a diagnosis of the adult male and female birds:—

PARADISEA DECORA. (Plate VIII.)

- ♂. Supra sericeo-straminea, alis et cauda fuscis, illarum tectricibus stramineo lavatis; rectricibus mediis elongatis filiformibus, ramis ad medium evanescentibus sicut in *P. apoda*; fronte angusta et gula velutino-viridescenti nitentibus, mento sub certa luce obscuriore; subtus lilacino-vinacea, pectore saturatiore, abdomine medio albicante; plumis hypochondriacis posticis ruberrimis, apicibus canescentibus, ramis valde distantibus sicut in *P. sanguinea*, anticis brevibus, apicibus saturatissime rubro-vinaceis; rostro plumbeo ad apicem albicante; pedibus pallide plumbeis; iride (avis vivi) flava: long. tota 14 poll. Angl., alæ 7, caudæ rectr. elong. 18, rectr. lat. 6, rostri a rictu 1.6, tarsi 1.8.
- ♀. Inornata, supra olivaceo-fusca stramineo tineta, gula saturate brunnea; subtus rufescenti-fusca, pectore et hypochondriis anticis fusco irroratis; caudæ rectricibus duabus mediis angustis et acutis, reliquis paulo brevioribus.

Hab. Fergusson Island, D'Entrecasteaux group (*Goldie*).

Mus. Brit. (specimina septem).

In conclusion we must congratulate Mr. Goldie on the discovery of this fine species, and at the same time express our opinion that these islands, with their peculiar Bird of Paradise, the home, too, of *Manucodia comrii* and of the *Otidiphaps* lately described as *O. insularis*, are well worthy of further patient investigation.



W. G. B. 1883. 1883.

Hanhart imp.

PARADISEA DECORA